

Yanovska O. Institutionalization of the volunteer movement in Ukraine: security dimension

The article is dedicated to the institutional development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine and its impact on the security situation. First and foremost, there is an increasing of volunteer mobility of Ukrainians and the emergence of the new flexible forms of volunteering, taking into account the crisis period of mass protests of December 2013–February 2014 in Ukraine and the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine from 2014. The authors pay the special attention to 2014 year as to the year which events gave the significant impulse to the development of charitable and volunteer activities in Ukraine. The individual initiatives to assist members of the Revolution of Dignity, which eventually turned into organized associations, is testimony to this fact. For example, 82 volunteer organizations were registered only in 2014.

The article has also outlined four main areas of the volunteer activities in Ukraine, which are devoted to resisting the external aggression and its consequences. These are the collection and delivery of the necessary resources to the zone of the anti-terrorist operation, the providing of medical assistance to the victims during its conduct, the assistance to the forced migrants, the search for missing persons and the release of prisoners. The main challenges, which the volunteer initiatives are facing up, are studied. Particular attention is paid to the gaps in the legislation on the volunteer activity, the tax pressure on the volunteering and charity, the activity of the pseudo volunteers and the cases of abuse among volunteers, the lack of coordination between the state and the volunteer movement, etc.

The subsequent studies of this topic may be related to research of the improvement of mechanisms for interaction between the state authorities and the volunteers, which may help to create the appropriate conditions for a new level of this activity.

Key words: volunteer movement, state security, external aggression, institutional development, self-organization of the population.